

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08730 221434Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01  
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00  
EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /146 W  
----- 093254 /63

R 221408Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1047  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY GUAYAQUIL  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR USMISSION OECD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, SY  
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 08730 221434Z

SUBJECT: SYRIAN BACKING FOR SAUDI PRICING DECISION

1. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WITH PRESS DEC. 21 FOLLOWING  
HIS READING OF STATEMENT CONCERNING SYRIAN-CAIRO UNITY TALKS,  
FONMIN KHADDAM WAS ASKED WHETHER RECENT OPEC INCREASES WILL  
AFFECT WORLD PUBLIC OPINION VIS-A-VIS ARAB ISSUES. STATED

THAT ANNOUNCED PRICE INCREASES WOULD REQUIRE DEBATE SINCE "THE EMPLOYMENT OF OIL HAS NOW APPARENTLY STARTED TURNING AGAINST THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE." HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE INCREASES WILL HURT THE THIRD WORLD WHICH IS ALREADY SUFFERING FROM THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND WORLD INFLATION AND ARABS WILL BE BLAMED.

2. PETROLEUM MINISTER DARWISH TOLD AMBASSADOR EARLIER SAME DAY THAT SYRIA INTENDS TO PRICE ITS OWN OIL ACCORDING TO SAUDI-UAE FORMULA RATHER THAN THAT OF OPEC MAJORITY. DARWISH ALSO REFERRED TO SARG'S DESIRE SHOW ITS SYMPATHY WITH THIRD WORLD STATES WITHOUT OIL.

3. COMMENT: THESE TWO STATEMENTS, TAKEN TOGETHER, SUGGEST SYRIA IS SUPPORTING SAUDI POSITION RE PRICE INCREASES. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER DARWISH'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR REPRESENTED FINAL SARG DECISION OR HIS OWN PREDICTION.

MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC08730  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760470-0038  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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